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Zamarripa releases Fulton County Study Report

ATLANTA- After three extensive Senate hearings and lengthy discussions with county officials, city officials, policy analysts, members of the General Assembly and concerned citizens, the Fulton County Study Committee released its findings on the state of Fulton County. The Study Committee report includes materials presented to the Study Committee by Fulton County Schools, Fulton County Courts, Fulton County Commissioners, the Fulton County Tax Commissioner, MARTA and Grady Health System, as well as a summary statement issued by Committee co-chair Senator Sam Zamarripa (D-Atlanta).

Fulton County Study Committee Co-chair Sen. Zamarripa offered recommendations for how Fulton County Government should adjust to the probable incorporation of new cities in north Fulton County. These include regionalizing funding for MARTA and Grady Health System, as well as strengthening the role of the Fulton County Commission Chair. Sen. Zamarripa also suggested establishing a mayors' council to help coordinate interaction between cities across Fulton County and the county government.

"Municipalization is happening throughout Fulton County, and we need to understand its impact in order to plan for the future of the county," said Sen. Zamarripa. "This study committee is just the

beginning of an extremely complicated and important public discussion. We need to have more public meetings and discussion on the role of the County going forward”

If the proposed cities of Milton and Johns Creek incorporate during this legislative session, millions of dollars of special service district funds will be diverted from county coffers to these new cities. It is unclear exactly what impact the incorporation of these new cities would have on the delivery of special service district funded services (such as police, fire and sewage) throughout the rest of the county.

“If the remainder of unincorporated north Fulton County incorporates, the County will have to adjust its service delivery strategy,” Sen. Zamarripa added. “Fulton County is a large, economically diverse county, and the study committee simply asked ‘in light of incorporation what is the most effective way for the county government to serve its residents?’”

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Sen. Sam Zamarripa represents the 36th Senate District which includes a portion of Fulton County. He may be reached by phone at 404.463.8054 or by e-mail at sam@zamarripa.com.